



**MEMORANDUM  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

---

**DATE:** April 17, 2007

Agenda Item No. 2(B)1  
April 24, 2007

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:**   
Carlos Alvarez, Mayor  
Miami-Dade County

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of the Director of the Office of ADA Coordination

---

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Heidi Johnson-Wright as the Director of the Office of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordination effective immediately. This appointment follows a national search which resulted in 114 applicants from across the country and two highly qualified finalists. The County Manager and I interviewed the finalists and are very pleased with the appointment of this dynamic, qualified, and dedicated public administrator.

Ms. Johnson-Wright has served as the ADA Coordinator and Attorney for Miami Beach since 2001. She served as the principle ADA Coordinator for almost every city department and has advised senior management on virtually all access issues including rights of way, capital projects, parks, parking facilities, information technology, communications, beaches, and special events. She also served as the staff attorney and hearing officer for the State of Ohio Department of Commerce. Ms. Johnson-Wright holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Kent State University and a Juris Doctorate from the Ohio State University College of Law.

I want to thank the selection committee members, which included Colleen Fix Huff, Outgoing Chair of the Airport Access Advisory Committee, senior staff from the County Manager's Office, and Department Directors, for all their hard work during this extensive process. Please join me in congratulating Heidi and wishing her success as she assumes her responsibilities as the new Director of ADA Coordination. The charge memorandum from the County Manager to Ms. Johnson-Wright is attached for your review.

Attachment

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk, Circuit and County Courts  
Honorable Joseph P. Farina, Chief Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit  
Honorable Kathy Fernandez-Rundle, State Attorney  
Honorable Bennett Brummer, Public Defender  
Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney  
George M. Burgess, County Manager  
Denis Morales, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Assistant County Managers  
Department Directors  
Marvin O'Quinn, President Public Health Trust  
Robert Meyers, Executive Director, Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

**HEIDI JOHNSON-WRIGHT**

2330 SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street ♦ Miami, FL 33145  
(786) 402-9297 voice, (305) 285-4830 fax  
email: [hjohnsonwright@yahoo.com](mailto:hjohnsonwright@yahoo.com)

December 5, 2006

Marjorie Young  
CPS Executive Search  
241 Lathrop Way  
Sacramento, CA 95815

Dear Ms. Young:

I am responding to the posting for Director of the Office of ADA Coordination of Miami-Dade County, Florida. As an experienced ADA Coordinator and attorney, I understand the importance of finding the best qualified individual for such an important position. I believe that I am that individual.

Here is a list of my qualifications as they relate to your requirements for the position:

Your requirements

Bachelor's Degree.

My qualifications

I have a Juris Doctor degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Five years of professional experience in Americans' with Disabilities Act administration and compliance

I have 5+ years experience as an ADA Coordinator for a municipality, and 16 years experience in regulatory compliance work.

Experience working to ensure access in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services, transportation and communications.

I have 5+ years experience in all of these areas.

Experience working with advisory boards.

I have 5+ years experience working with a disability advisory committee, and 5 years experience working with a building industry advisory board.

A thorough knowledge of all aspects of the ADA, Fair Housing, Section 504, and other federal, state and county laws and ordinances addressing disability issues.

As an ADA Coordinator, I have an excellent command of the laws pertinent to this profession. As an experienced attorney, I am very comfortable dealing with statutory and administrative requirements on a federal, state and local level.

I have included a copy of my resume for your perusal, as well as a list of three references. I look forward to coming in for an interview as soon as possible. I can be reached at: 786-402-9297.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Heidi Johnson-Wright

2

## HEIDI JOHNSON-WRIGHT

2330 S.W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami, FL 33145  
E-mail: [hjohnsonwright@yahoo.com](mailto:hjohnsonwright@yahoo.com)

Phone: (305) 285-7313  
Fax: (305) 285-4830  
Cell : (786) 402-9297

### EXPERTISE

**Disability Compliance ... Verbal/Written Communications ... Project Management**  
utilizing proven success in:

**Solving Global to Local Compliance Issues . . . .**  
**Planning. . . . Liaising . . . . Implementing**

### PROFILE

Highly experienced professional with 16 years of compliance experience including: expertise in Americans with Disabilities Act, building code issues, human resources, equal employment opportunity, government regulations and policy; expertise in code compliance, administrative procedure, written and verbal communication skills, including constituent relations; skillful at interaction with high level officials. Proven ability to recruit, manage and mentor new talent.

---

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Serve as principle ADA Coordinator** for virtually every city department, researching and advising top level management on access issues involving rights of way, capital projects, parks, parking facilities, information technology, communications, beaches, special events and other matters.
- **Implement and manage city-wide wheelchair curb ramp project** addressing intersections on city-controlled streets.
- **Perform review of building plans** for rights of way and capital improvement projects.
- **Administer \$100,000-plus ADA Office budget** including grants management matters.
- **Serve as city liaison** to public body overseeing disability issues that affect the city
- **Investigate and respond** to ADA grievances filed against the city.

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

(continued)

- **Lead city team** to favorably settle ADA lawsuits brought against the city, and implement settlement stipulation terms, including facilities and program modifications.
- **Spearheaded program to implement real-time captioning** of all televised City Commission meetings in both English and Spanish.
- **Represented major non-profit organization** on national and local levels through public speaking, fund raising and media appearances, resulting in greatly increased awareness about juvenile arthritis.
- **Provided legal services** on countless projects -- including building code issues, contractor certification matters, litigation preparation and settlements -- thus avoiding judgments against state government regulatory agency.
- **Created a model internship program** for state government agency, resulting in improved, professional delivery of legal services on a department-wide basis.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, Miami Beach, Florida 2001 – Present  
**City ADA Coordinator**  
• **Americans with Disabilities Act expert** for world-class city.
- TAKING FLIGHT, Miami, Florida 2000 – 2001  
**Founder/Freelance Writer/Technical Consultant**  
• **Contributor of disability articles** to newspapers, magazines and websites.
- STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, Columbus, Ohio 1990 – 2000  
**Staff Attorney/Intern Program Coordinator/Hearing Officer**  
• **Management level legal expert** for highly-diverse, 900 employee agency.

**EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL HONORS**

**Juris Doctor**, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW, 1989  
**B.A., English**, KENT STATE UNIVERSITY, 1986  
*Gubernatorial Appointee, Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities*  
Recipient, *KENT STATE UNIVERSITY* Young Alumni Achievement Award  
***Read, write and speak Spanish***

**REFERENCES FOR  
HEIDI JOHNSON-WRIGHT**

**Jorge Chartrand, Director**

City of Miami Beach Capital Improvement Program  
777 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
Phone: 305-673-7000, ext. 6135

**Don Papy, Chief Deputy City Attorney**

City of Miami Beach City Attorney's Office  
1700 Convention Center Drive – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
Phone: 305-673-7000, ext. 6459

**Gladys Salas, PE, Chief Accessibility Inspector**

City of Miami Beach Building Department  
1700 Convention Center Drive – 2nd Floor  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
Phone: 305-673-7000, ext. 6888